

**Tree City USA
since 1996**



Monday through Friday
(510) 979-5700
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

www.fremont.gov



Printed on recycled paper.

Tree Services Summary

All trees in the City of Fremont are protected under the Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ord. No. 2481. Sec. 1, Chapter 5)

➤ Why does the City plant and maintain trees?

Trees are good for the property owner, the community, business, and the environment.

➤ How do I know if a tree is a City tree?

(See page #6 for diagram; possibly call.)

➤ Does the City prune its trees?

Yes, at no cost. (See pages #8 & #9)

➤ Does the City top trees?

No, topping is not a sound practice so the City does not top, unless a last resort to save a damaged mature tree. (See page #7)

➤ Does the City plant trees?

Yes, on limited basis when resident agrees to water the tree. (See page #10)

➤ Does the City remove trees?

Yes, under some circumstances. (See page #11)

➤ Does the City do root pruning?

No. Information on proper root pruning is available to residents on request.

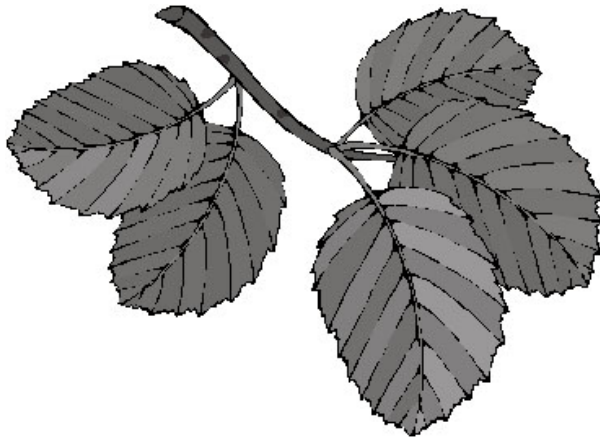
➤ Will the City respond to tree emergencies?

Yes, to assure public safety. (See page #5)

We hope this brochure has been of assistance to you and that you will retain it for future use. If you desire any of the services listed above, have additional questions, or would like additional copies of this brochure, please contact us at:

42551 Osgood Road, Fremont, CA 94539





Urban Forestry Crew Mission Statement

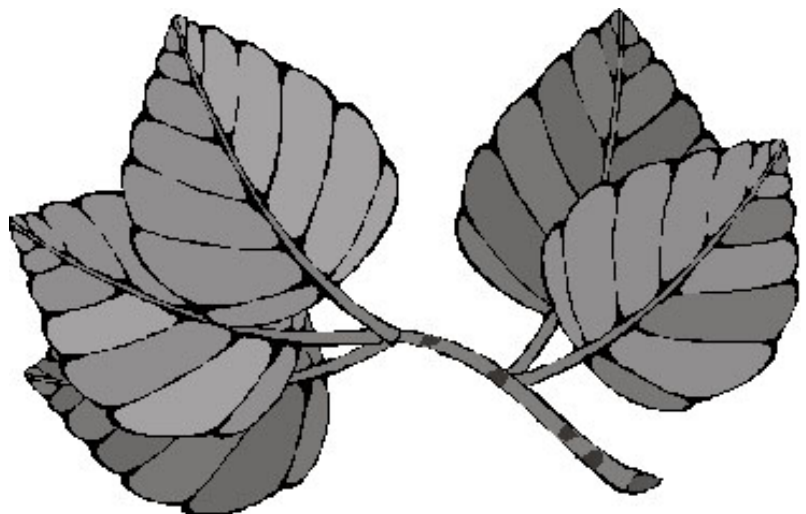
To preserve the urban forest and keep public rights-of-way safe and aesthetically pleasing through comprehensive City tree management.

Emphasize a comprehensive, systematic approach to tree care through preventative measures and proper maintenance.

This comprehensive approach to tree care enables us to personalize our service to the specific needs of the customer.

This results in healthier, more attractive trees; service to satisfied customers; and increased safety for employees while preserving the environment.

Tree health care . . . care for employees, care for the environment and care for our customers.



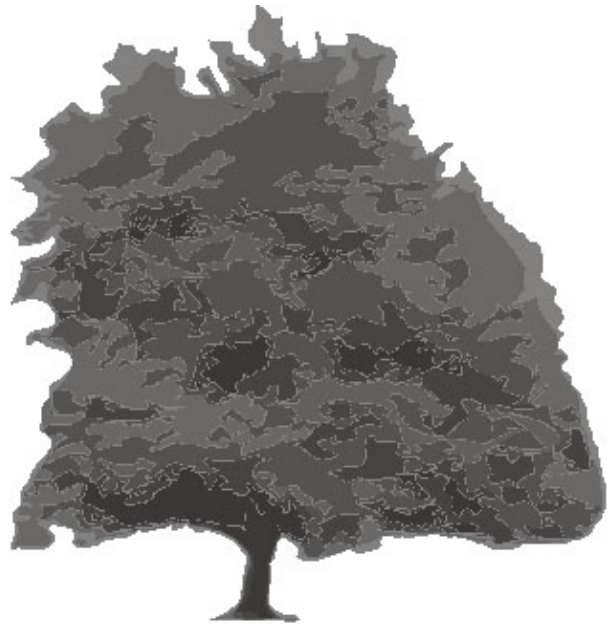


The citizens and City Council of Fremont recognize that trees are very important to both the present and future of our City. The Urban Forestry/Park Maintenance Section is responsible for over 65,000 trees within the public right of way in front of both residential and commercial property as well as City parks and landscaped boulevard areas.

Why should the City plant and maintain trees?

Because they:

- Increase property values (21% according to one study)
- Remove carbon dioxide (48 pounds per year per tree in one study)
- Reduce energy demands (lower cooling costs 10 to 50% depending upon climate)
- Diffuse and hold rain
- Deflect wind above houses and people
- Reduce smog by trapping pollutants
- Block noise pollution
- Increase neighborhood character, increases community pride, contributes to neighborhood aesthetics
- Reduce stress
- Increase business (people tend to shop longer and apartments and offices rent faster)
- Soften architectural lines, adds variety of color, form, texture and pattern



Public Education

The Urban Forestry/Park Maintenance Section wants to keep our Urban Forest in the public eye. Examples of activities undertaken are Arbor Day activities, neighborhood volunteer tree planting, newspaper articles, and receiving "Tree City U.S.A." designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation. In addition, tree services information will be made available to schools, youth groups, or any formal or informal group which is interested in trees when requested.

Tree Emergency Response

The City will remove and dispose of limbs that have fallen from Street Trees. Members of the Parks Maintenance crews are called out at any hour to respond to tree-related emergencies. If this damage occurs after normal working hours, call the Fremont Police Department (790-6800), who will call out tree crews. During these times, the priority is to clear the streets for emergency vehicles so it may be necessary to leave branches in front yards until normal working hours.

Also, if large limbs from trees located on private property fall and obstruct the public sidewalk or street, the City will remove the obstruction from public right-of-way and return the cut up debris to the private property, per Section 6-2300, City Tree Ordinance.



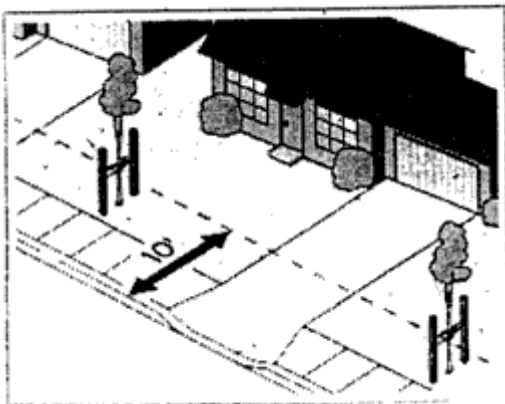
How do I know if the tree in front of my property is a City Tree?

City trees are planted in public right-of-way. The public right of way is a different width in different parts of the City. Use diagram provided below to help determine if you have a City tree. If unable to determine if the tree in front of your property is a City Street Tree, call the Urban Forestry/ Parks Maintenance Department.

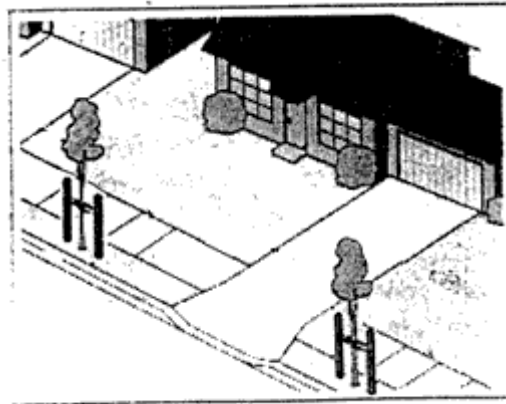
The responsibility for trees planted outside the public right-of-way remains with the property owner.

All trees (but not other plantings) in parkway are City maintained and protected (see Diagram B).

In monolithic situations (Diagram A), City is only responsible for designated street trees (usually within 4 feet of sidewalk).



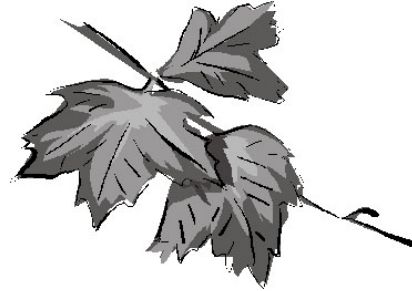
*(Diagram A) Monolithic
(one piece curb, gutter & sidewalk combined)*



*(Diagram B) Parkway or Planting Easement
(between sidewalk & street)*

Tree Topping

Violation of Street Tree Ordinance Section
6-2101 (see page 14)



One common request is for a tree to be topped. Most of these requests are generated by property owners concerned about leaves or the safety of tall trees. However, topping is not a horticulturally sound practice and weakens a tree in several ways. (If you see City tree crews doing severe crown reduction of trees, this is being done as a last resort to save a mature or damaged tree.)

- Topping starves a tree since such a large portion of the crown is removed. (Good pruning practices do not remove more than one third of the tree.)
- It encourages insect and disease problems.
- Weak branch attachments result.
- It can result in rapid new growth which is actually denser than the non-topped tree (and increases maintenance cycles).
- Tree death due to shock may occur.
- Topping ruins the natural form of a tree (now and in the future).
- A topped tree costs more to maintain than an untopped tree.
- A topped tree ruins the uniformity of a street.
- Tree will have lost natural structure and strength for rest of it's life span.

The City, therefore, will not top trees. It will, however, select the properly sized tree for the growing area.

Some topping of street trees is done by P.G.&E. contractors under their high voltage lines. For information call P.G.&E. at 1-800-743-5000.



The City prioritizes tree work as follows:

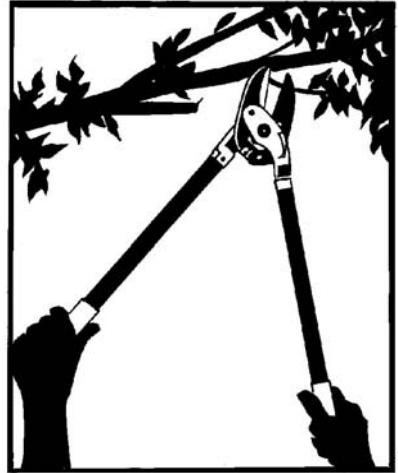
1. Safety related hazardous calls such as split tree, hanging limb, tree uprooting, tree or limbs down blocking public right of way (sidewalk or street).
2. Dead, diseased, and sometimes decayed.
3. Trees blocking traffic signals, street signs and street lights. (Trees blocking street lights are where limbs actually interfere with light head.)
4. City trees making actual physical contact with property possibly resulting in damage.
5. Clearance of 8' over sidewalks and 10-14' over streets, also to keep safe visibility for pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
6. The City is not able to provide tree services for the following reasons/ requests:
 - To reduce leaves, seeds, fruit, etc.
 - To increase sunlight or views.
 - To reduce size of trees considered too tall, swaying, too wide or overgrown.
 - To control birds or other animals in trees.
 - To remove roots in lawn or easement areas.
 - To prune branches growing over fence lines from City landscaped areas.
 - To clear phone, cable and electric (power) lines (service lines to house will be cleared if damage may be caused to structure).
 - Other nuisance-related reasons.



Tree Pruning

The tree crew schedules pruning on an area basis and as needed based on City standards. Tree pruning is limited to providing clearing of branches for pedestrian and vehicle traffic, as well as safety related situations.

Area Pruning: The most efficient way to prune trees is to send a crew or crews into an area and have them prune all of the trees in the City right-of-way. The City prunes young Street Trees to develop proper growth habits at an early stage. Older trees are pruned depending upon the needs of that tree. (The City does not condone residents pruning City trees and will only remove brush cut by City crews.)



Requests: We receive over 2,000 telephone requests per year for tree services. These requests are integrated into the area schedules as much as possible. Telephone requests are prioritized based upon the need for pruning and the urgency of the request. If a request reveals a safety hazard, service is provided the same or next day. These services are part of our routine maintenance. Other services will be responded to in a reasonable amount of time, depending on nature of requests, workload, weather permitting and staffing levels.

Note: Currently our request response crew consists of a 2 to 3 man crew operation. Please be patient, as work is prioritized accordingly.

Tree Planting

The City replants trees that have been removed from the public right-of-way. Homeowners requesting tree planting will have their property inspected to determine if there is a suitable location for a tree to be planted that will not conflict with existing utilities. When a site is good for planting a tree, the City will select a variety of tree to plant. Then tree will be placed on a planting list and replanted as soon as possible or variety availability.



After a tree is planted the property owner is responsible for watering, sweeping or raking leaves and flowers, and notifying the Urban Forestry Section if something doesn't look right or tree requires re-staking. Watering is usually required for the first three years. Residents do not top trees.

Tips for Tree Health

Do **not**:

- Top trees
- Allow plants to grow on tree trunk (i.e. ivy or vines)
- Surround in concrete or asphalt
- Plant flowers or lawn at base
- Change grade of surface around tree
- Damage tree trunk with weed eater or lawnmower
- Put metal objects in trunk such as nails, wire cable or chains
- Keep area around base in a continually saturated state
- Raise young trees



Tree Removals

Trees planted in an urban environment have both a physiological and a financial life-span. The City has set up a tree removal process in order to balance the individual property owner's needs and desires with the benefits that trees provide to the entire community. The City's Street Tree Ordinance provides for removal of street trees only under certain circumstances and assigns responsibility for the removal to either the City or the property owner.

After an inspection is conducted to determine if conditions allow for issuing a removal permit, a no-fee permit may be issued. All permits are issued with the understanding that the property owner will bear the cost of removal, and/or replant. Citywide historical or protected trees will not be allowed to be removed unless they present an obviously dangerous or hazardous condition.

The City only removes trees that are dead or dangerous. The removal is a two (2) step process. The removal of the tree is scheduled for one of the Urban Forestry crews, and /or a City designated contractor. (The firewood is left on the property unless otherwise directed by the property owner.) The tree trunk is left approximately 3-4 feet tall so that it does not become a tripping hazard. Next, a stumping crew comes with a stump grinder to remove the trunk and grind out the stump. Not all roots may be removed. If conditions allow, a replacement tree will be scheduled for planting as soon as possible.



Sidewalk, curb and gutter problems (resulting from trees or otherwise)

If a trip hazard is in the planter strip between the sidewalk and the curb, it is the home owner's responsibility, as the City does not place concrete in this area.

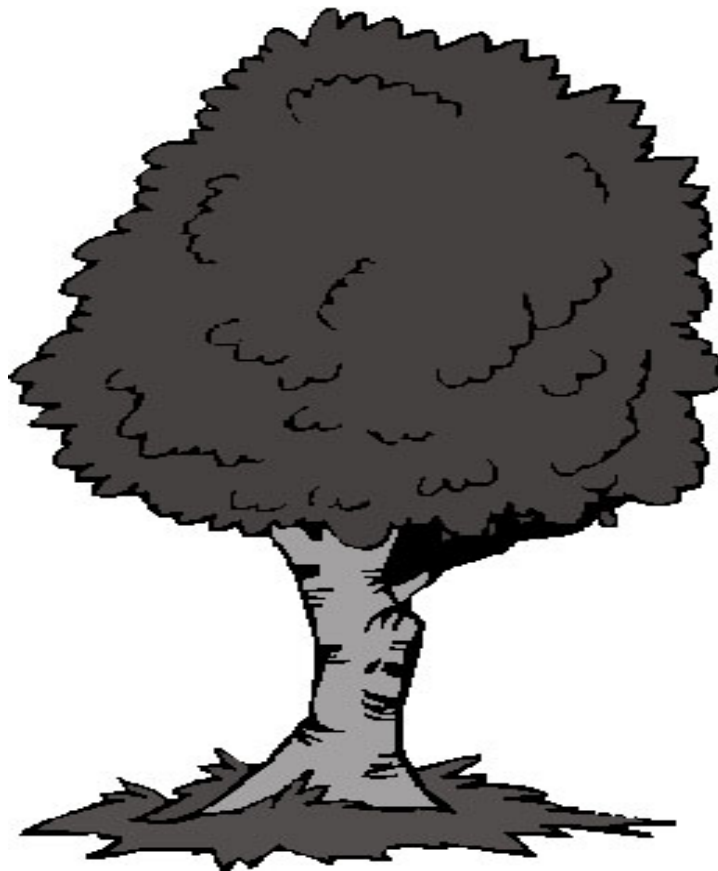
If the sidewalk is raised but is not displaced to create a trip hazard, no work will be done by the Street Department.

If the sidewalk is raised and displaced, the City Street Department will ramp it with asphalt if it is over 2". If it is a displacement under 2", the Street Crews will grind it down.

The Maintenance Department is not funded to repair sidewalk, curb and gutter. We will report the damage to the Engineering Department for consideration on future concrete repair programs.

If you have any questions please call:

Maintenance	979-5700
Engineering	494-4700



Sewer Line, Water Line, Landscape Concrete, etc., and Tree Roots...

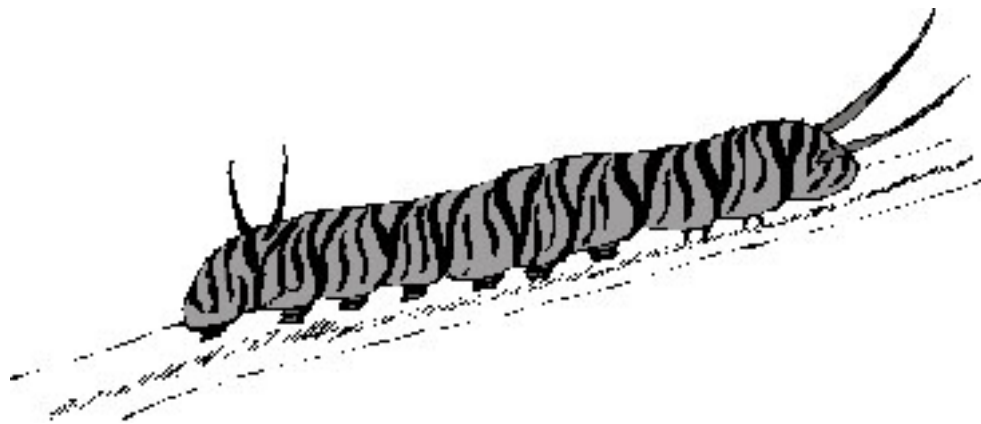
It is the homeowners responsibility to excavate, repair, and file all necessary permits associated with city tree root damage. During this process a city employee will document and photograph the damages potentially caused by tree roots. Notification must be given to the Parks Department when roots are unearthed and still in place. Photographic proof is necessary. If the homeowner feels that a city tree is responsible for the damage, the homeowner should file a claim against the city. The "Burden-of-Proof" falls upon the homeowner to prove his/her claim. Not all claims are paid; conclusive examination by city personnel will be the determining factor. The Risk Manager will determine if reimbursement for the repairs will be granted. Removal of trees will only be done if deemed necessary by the city personnel involved. Permit for removal may be issued for certain species of trees; however, the homeowner will bare all costs associated with removal.



Pest and Disease Control

Because of environmental concerns and limited resources, the City does not spray Street Trees. The City may spray or inject to treat severe cases of pest infestation, in which case biological or natural controls would be used.

In other cases, upon request, the City will assist residents by diagnosing their Street Tree disease or pest problems and discuss the controls available. In addition, the City will allow residents to have their Street Tree sprayed or injected by private contractor or to do the spraying themselves. (An inexpensive spray attachment for a garden hose, which can be used with chemicals or a soap and water solution, can be purchased at most hardware stores.) Residents are required to notify the City if they have the tree sprayed.



FREMONT MUNICIPAL CODE

Sec. 4-5101. Permit required to destroy tree.

No person shall cut down, destroy, remove or move any tree (including an olive tree) with a trunk diameter of four inches or greater, measured at four feet above ground level, growing within the city limits, unless and until a permit to do so has been obtained from the city manager or his designated representative; provided, however, that this section shall not apply in cases involving commercial type nut- or fruit-bearing trees (except that European Olive tree and the Black Walnut tree), or any tree located on a lot or parcel of land not exceeding ten thousand square feet in area. (Ord. No. 577, § 1; Ord. No. 689, § 5; Ord. No. 873, § 1, 11-23-71; Ord. No. 1896, § 1, 11-7-89.)

Sec. 4-5110. Unauthorized removal; penalty.

Civil Action: The violation of any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a nuisance. Civil action to abate, enjoin, or otherwise compel the cessation of such nuisance may be taken by the designee of the city manager of the City of Fremont.

In a civil action to abate the nuisance caused by unlawful tree removal the replacement value of the tree or trees involved shall be calculated based upon the most recent edition of "Guide for Establishing Values of Trees" published by the council of trees and landscape appraisers. (Ord. No. 1896, § 3, 11-7-89.)

Chapter 2

Sec. 6-2101. Acts requiring permits.

No person shall plant, cut, break, prune, trim or remove or in any way injure or deface any tree, shrub, tree stakes or tree guard in or upon any public street or right-of-way without having first obtained a permit as required by this chapter. (Sec. 1, Ord. 160.)

Sec. 6-2302. Interference with city operations.

No person shall interfere with city employees while engaged in the planting, mulching, pruning, trimming, spraying, treating, or removing of any tree or shrub in any public street or right-of-way of the city or in the removing of any stones, cement, or other substance from about the trunk of any tree or shrub on any such public street or right-of-way. (Sec. 1, Ord. 160.)

Maintenance Services Division / Urban Forestry Section

42551 Osgood Road, P.O. Box 5006,
Fremont, CA 94537-5006

Return Service Requested

